Free form CHIP CARVING

35 NEW DESIGNS!

By Carol A. Ponte

Free Form Chip Carving Patterns

Carol A. Ponte

This book is lovingly dedicated
to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
and to my husband, Alfred M. Ponte,
my teacher and source of inspiration.

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A friendly tip for woodcarvers:

We would like to pass along information on the best deal we have ever seen for woodcarvers.

The **National Wood Carvers Association** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the art of woodcarving. Members receive six issues of "Chip Chats" a colorful magazine full of techniques, show happenings, photographs of masterworks and more.

We highly recommend that every carver from beginner to professional join - you won't be disappointed!

Membership is only $11.00 per year ($14 outisde USA)
National Woodcarvers Association
7424 Miami Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45243

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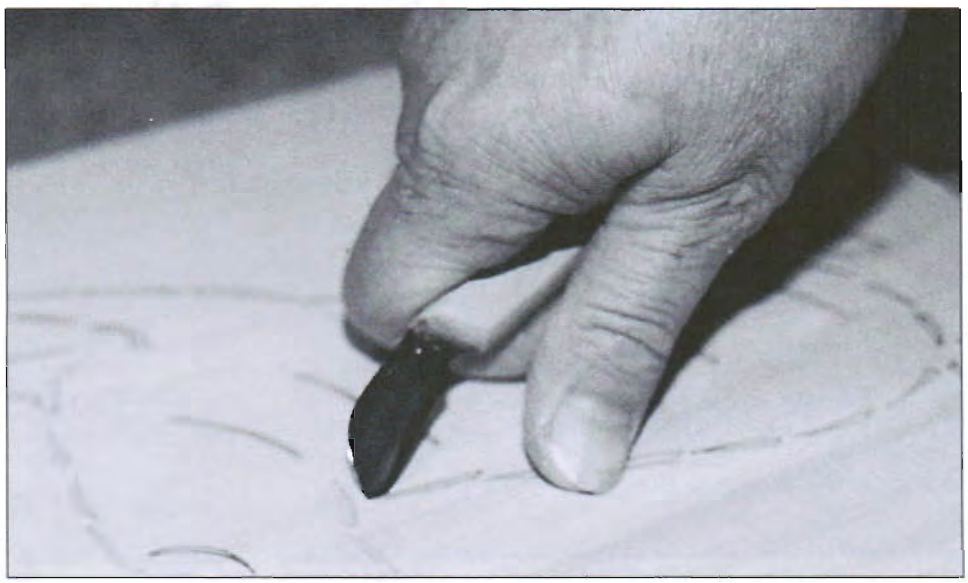
An Introduction to Free Form Chip Carving

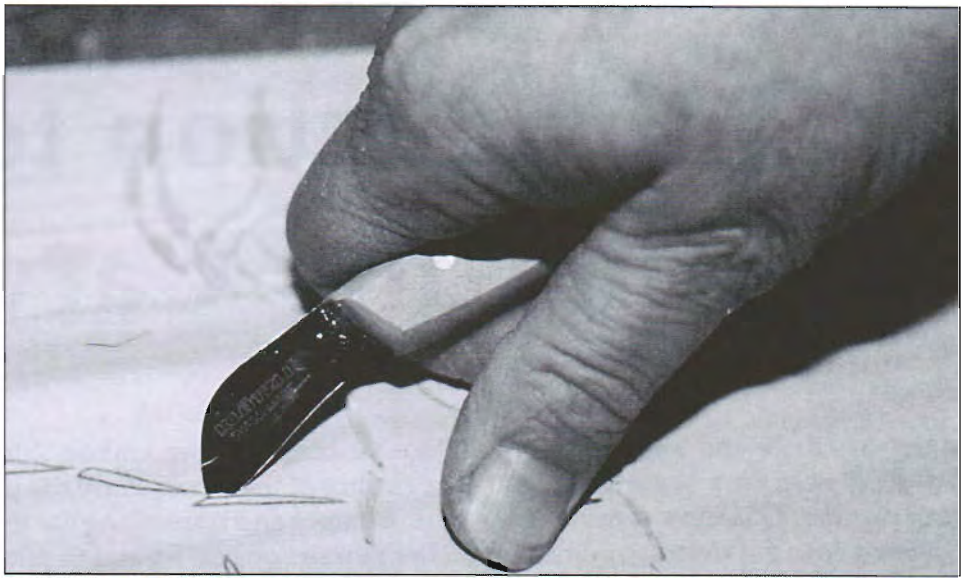
Free form chip carving has to be the easiest type of wood carving, and a good way for a beginner to get into the great hobby of carving. This form of carving is simply a matter of incising into the wood two lines in the opposite direction and in most cases connecting them with a short cut at the bottom.

First select a piece of wood (preferably basswood) on which the picture you wish to carve will fit nicely. Then sand the surface of the wood with a fine-grain sandpaper. After you wipe away the excess grit, trace the picture onto the board using carbon paper. Place the carbon paper, carbon side down, directly on the surface of the wood. Place the picture on top of the carbon paper and trace along the lines with a pencil or other pointed object. Try not to put excess pressure on the carbon paper with your fingers or the heel of your hand; you will leave smudges of carbon behind on the wood.

The photographs and brief descriptions below will give you an introduction to free form chip carving. Try several practice pieces and then choose one of the patterns in this book to try chip carving for yourself.



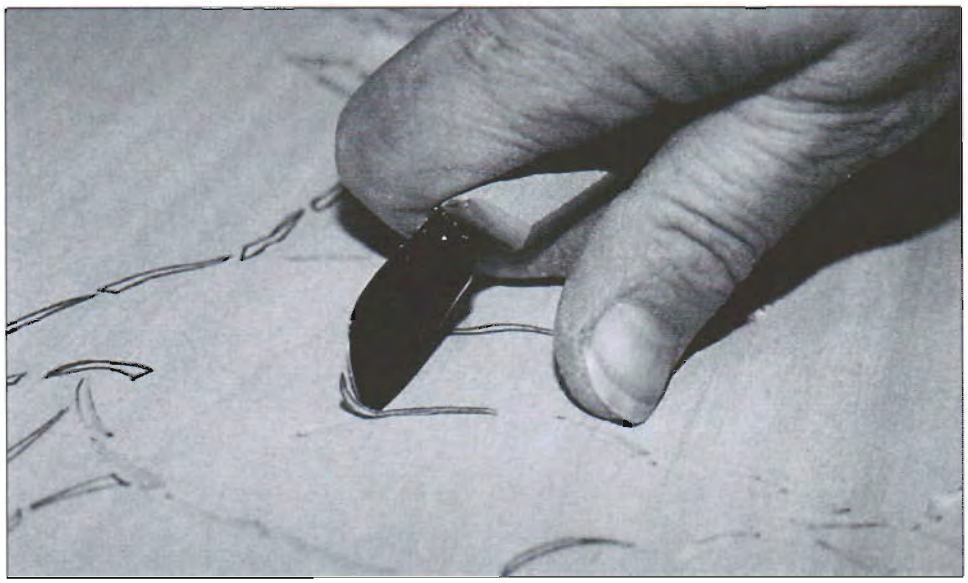
Hold the chip carving knife in your hand as shown in the picture. Use your thumb as a guide. The knuckle of your index finger should be anchored firmly on the wood. This will allow you to keep the same degree of an angle and depth as you carve into the wood.



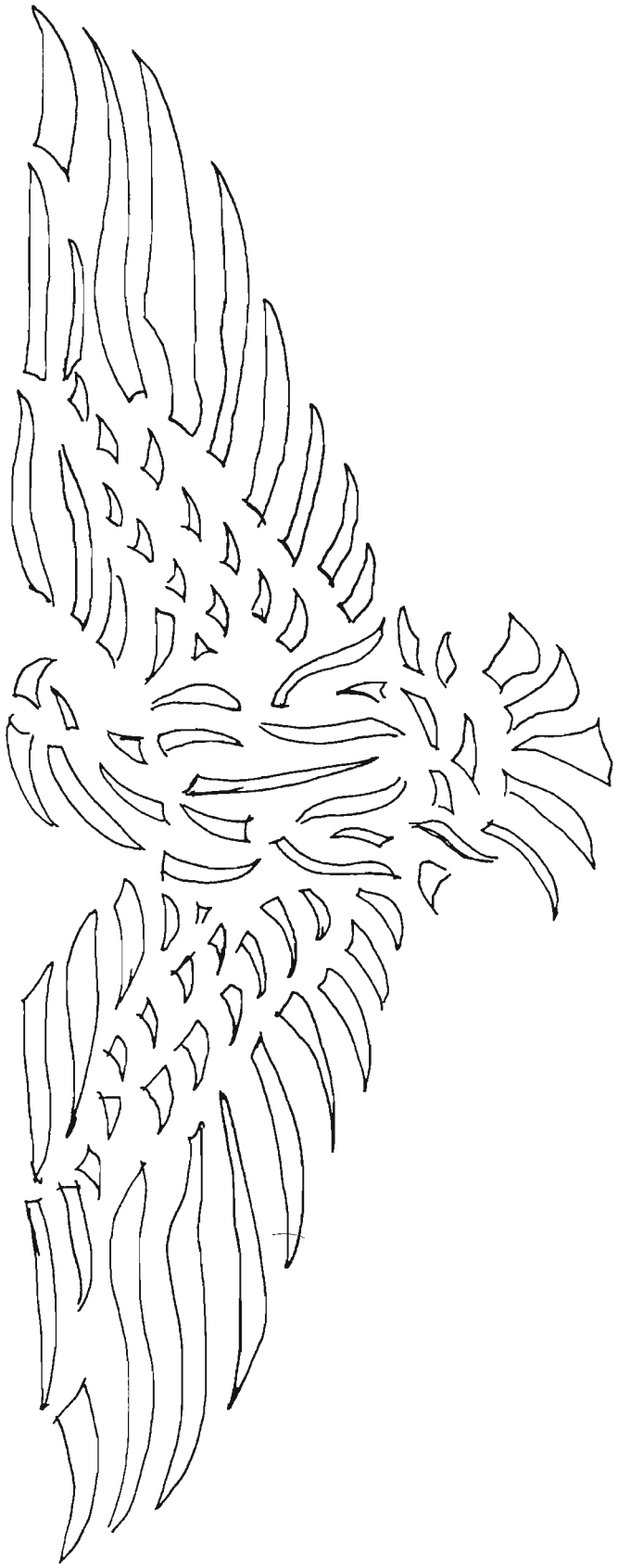
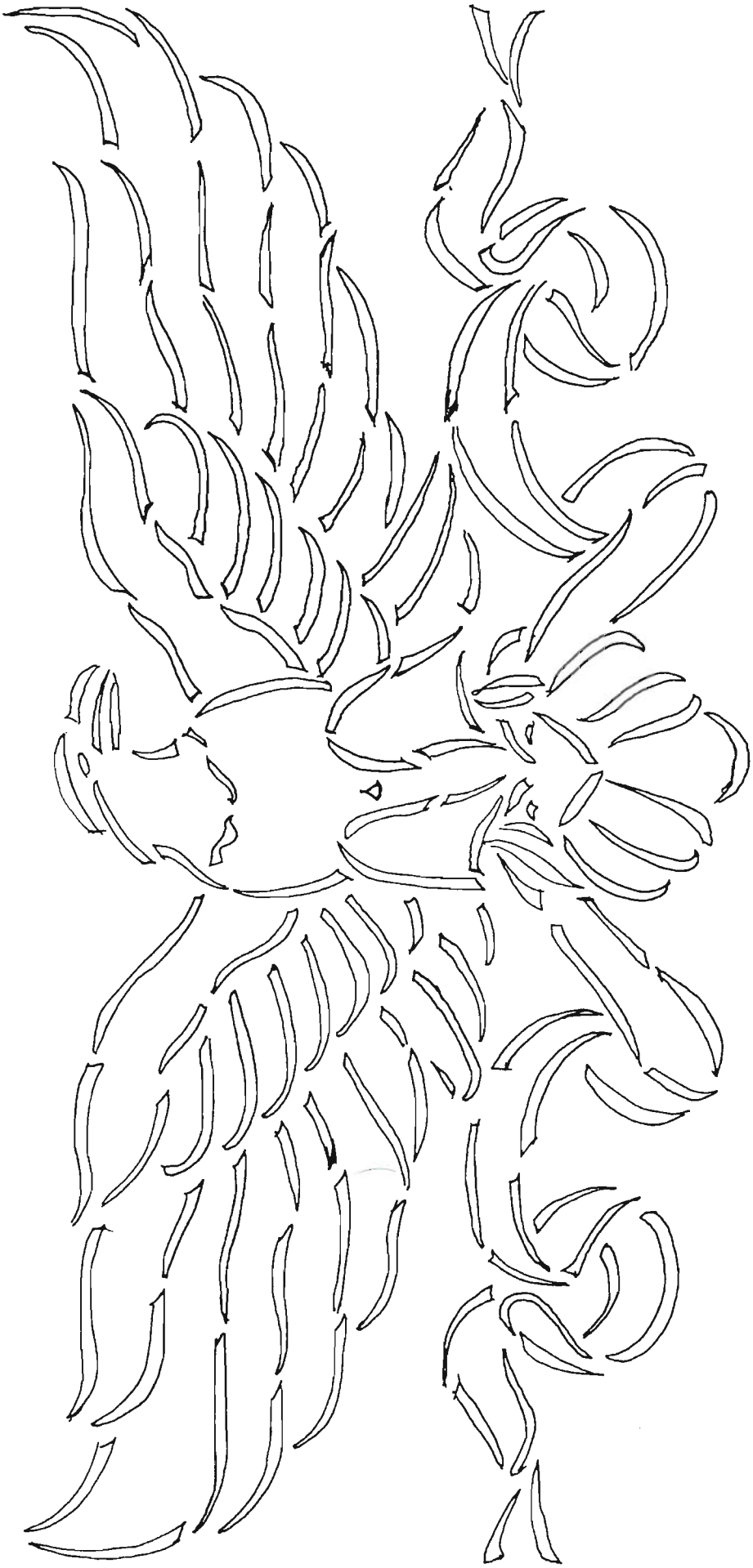
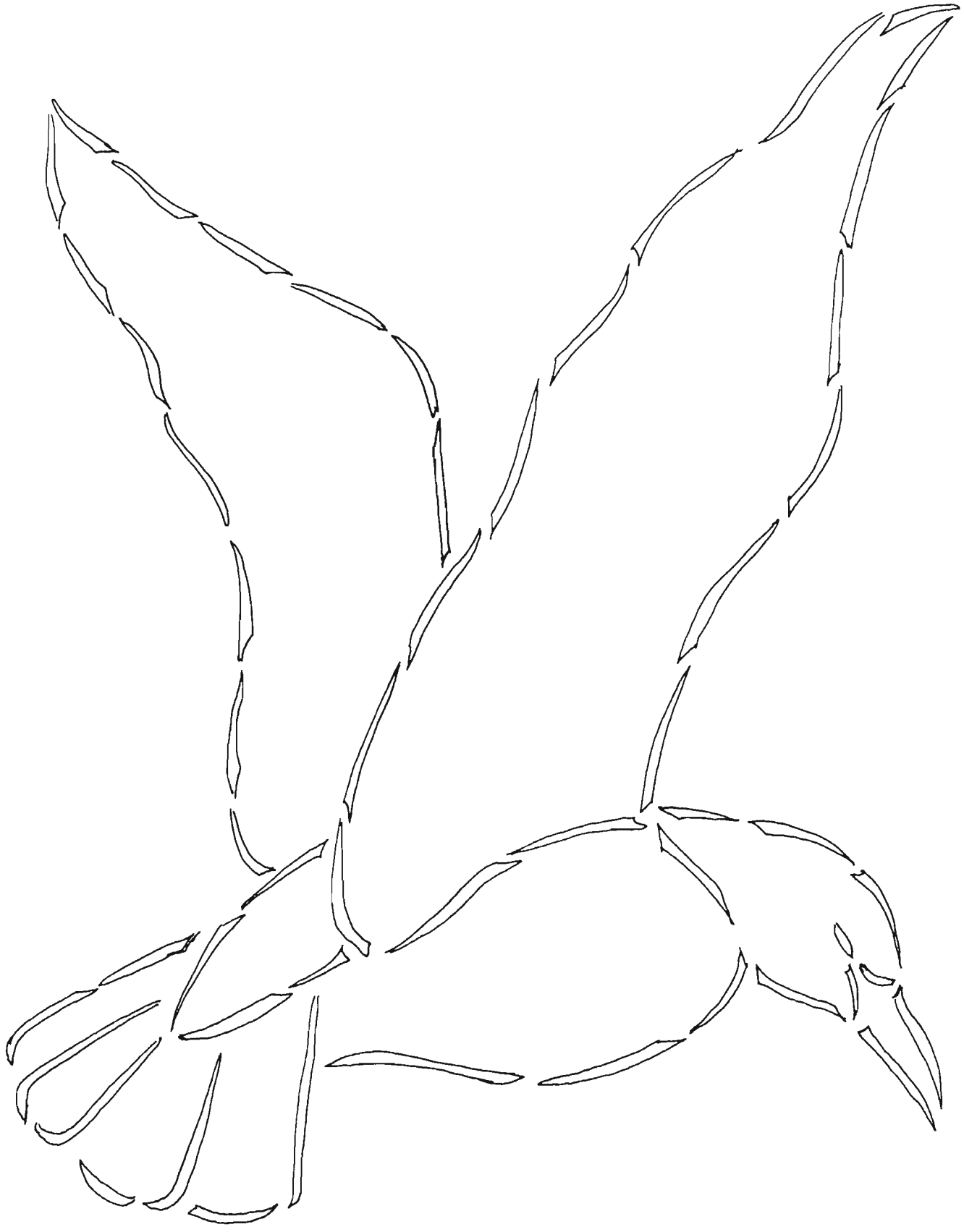
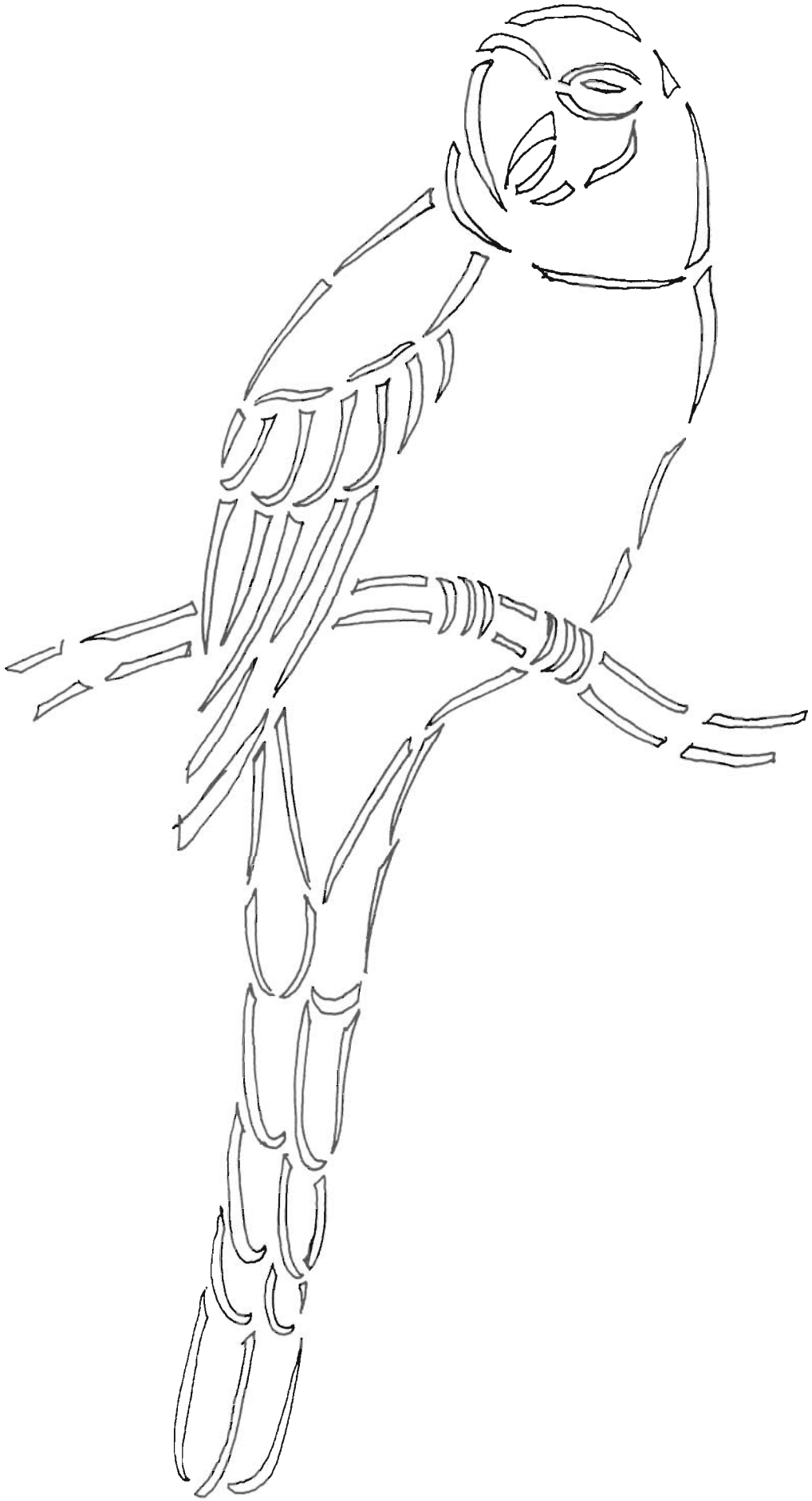
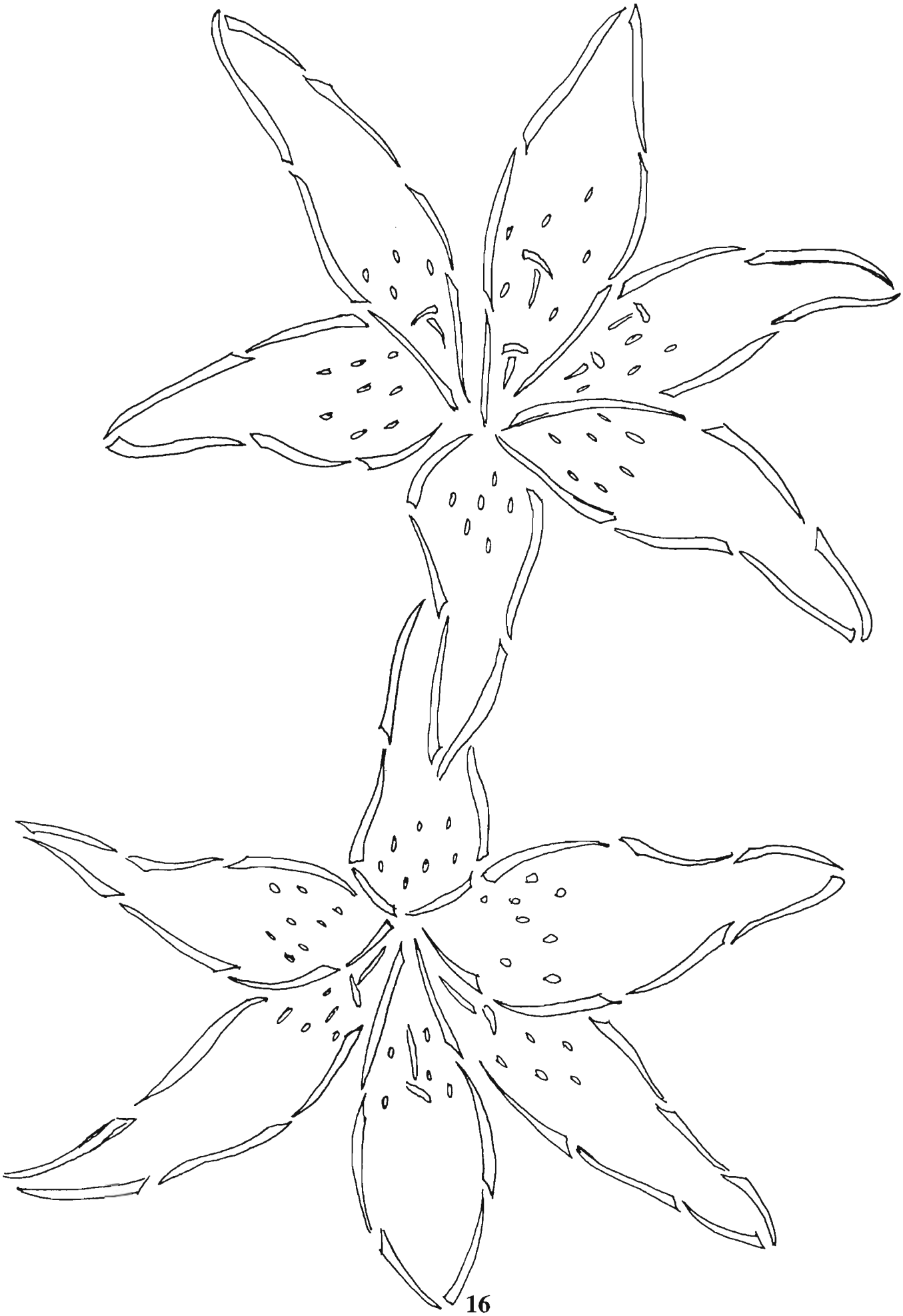
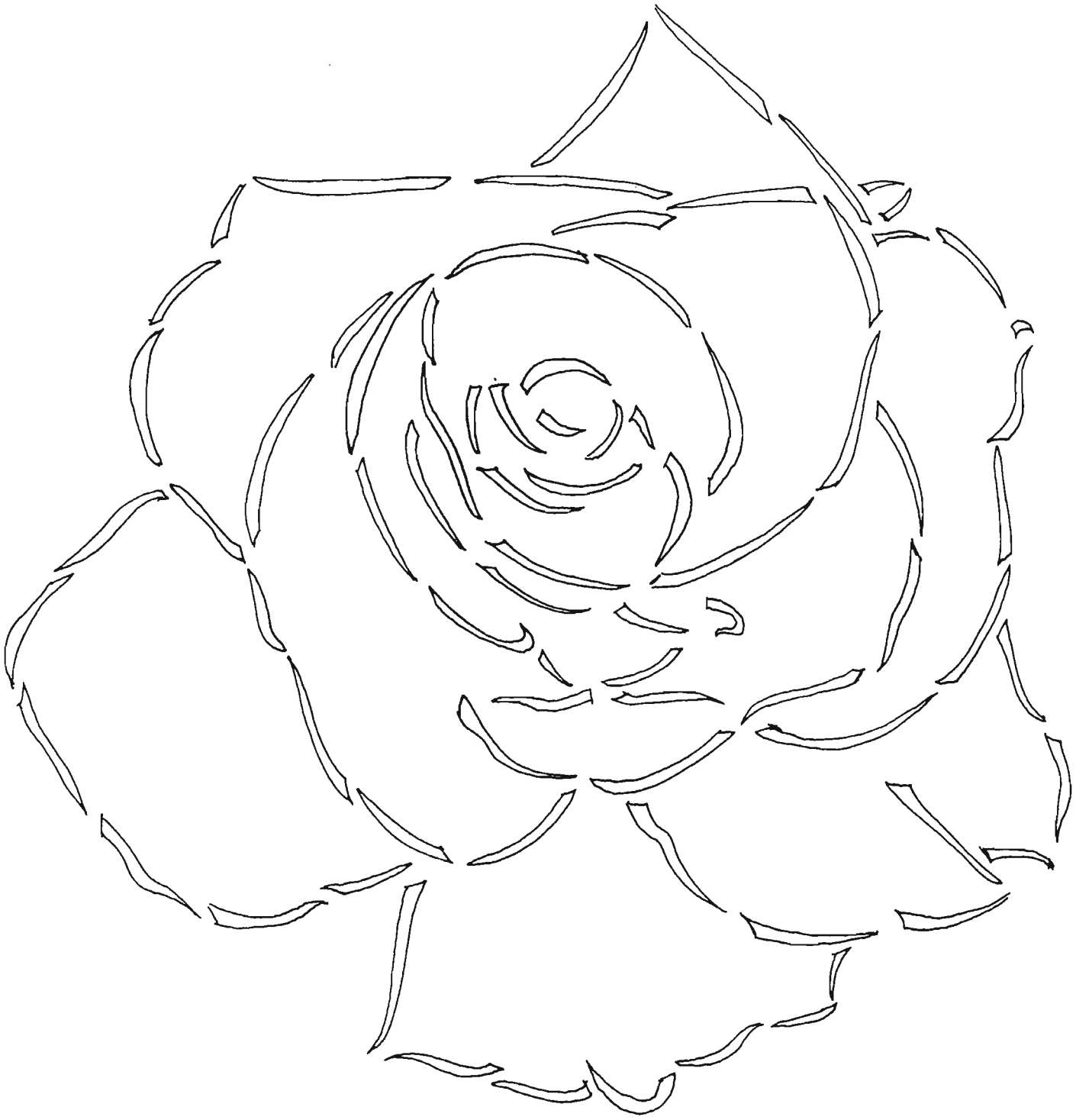
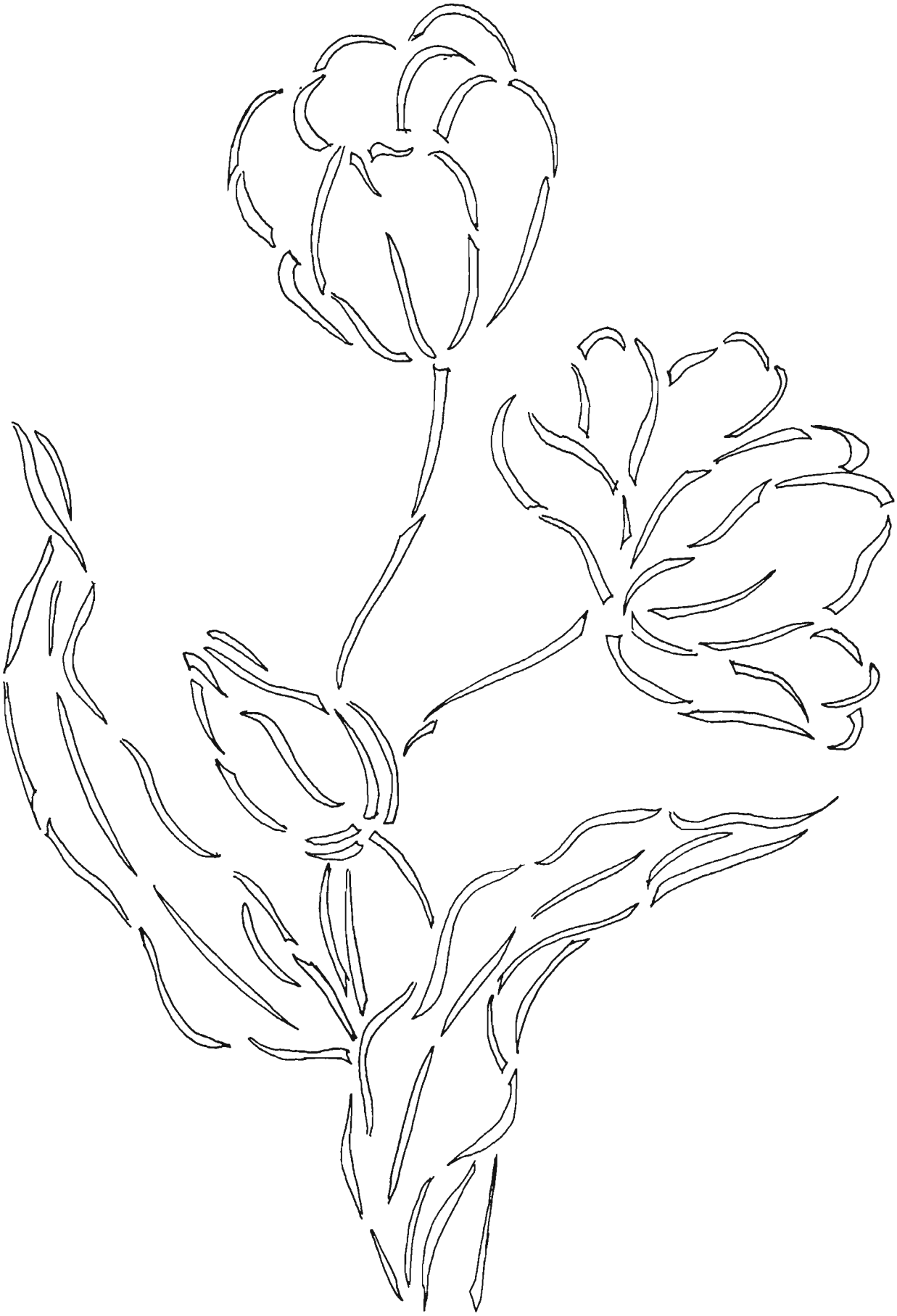
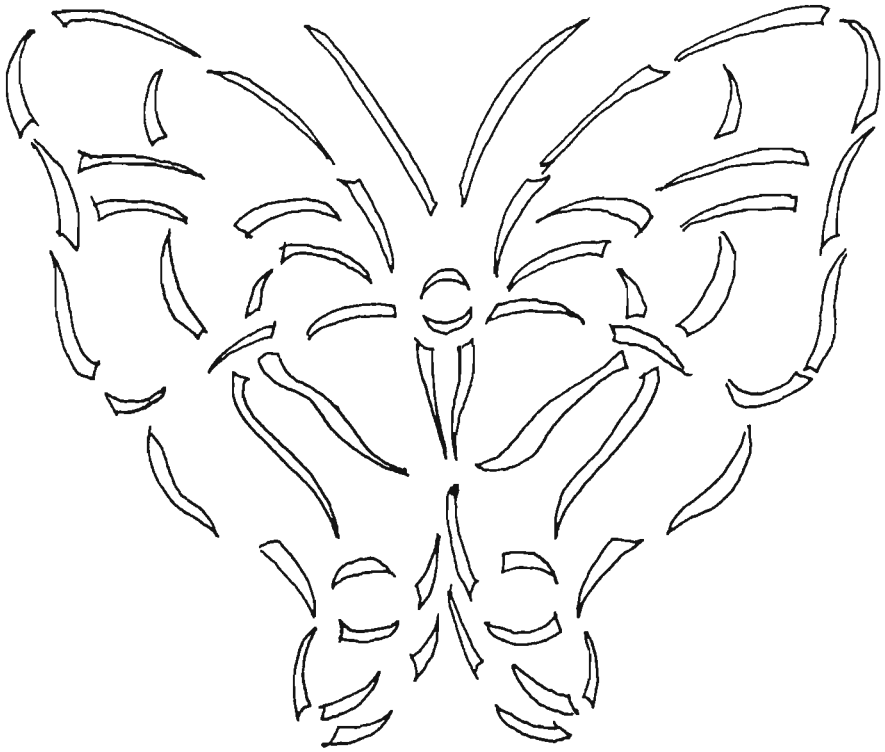
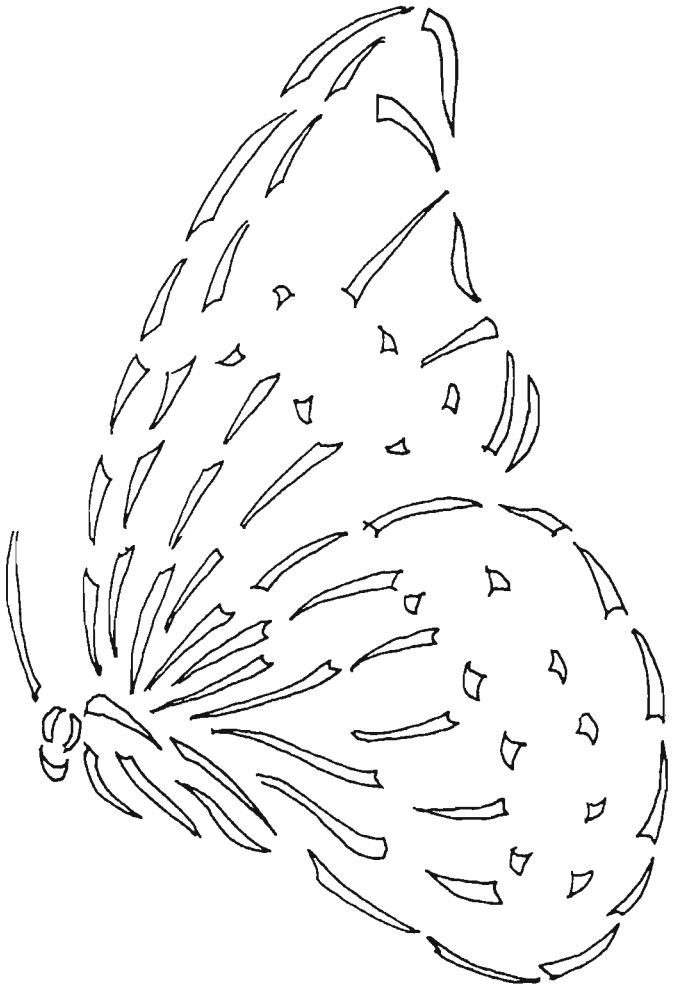
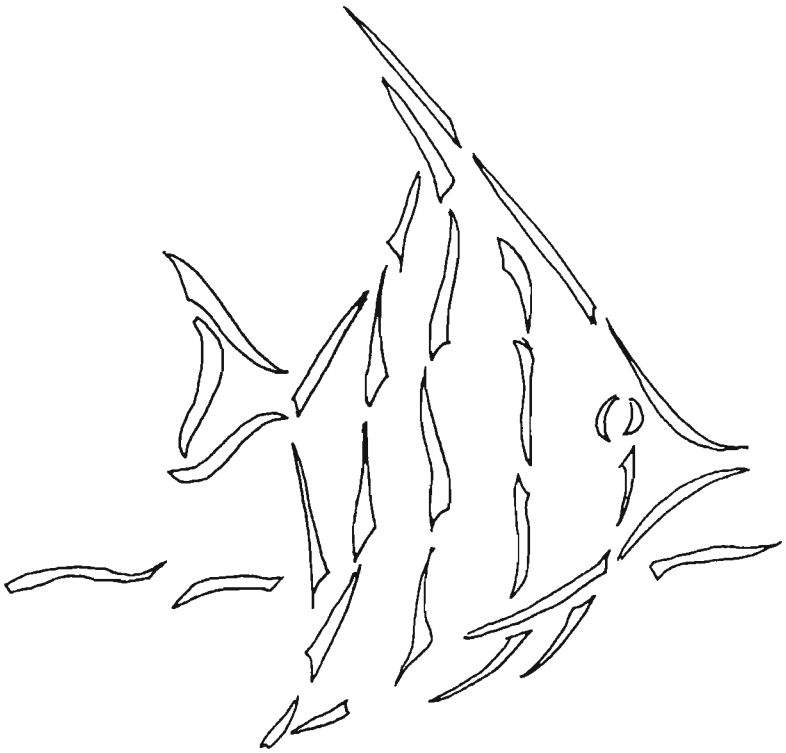
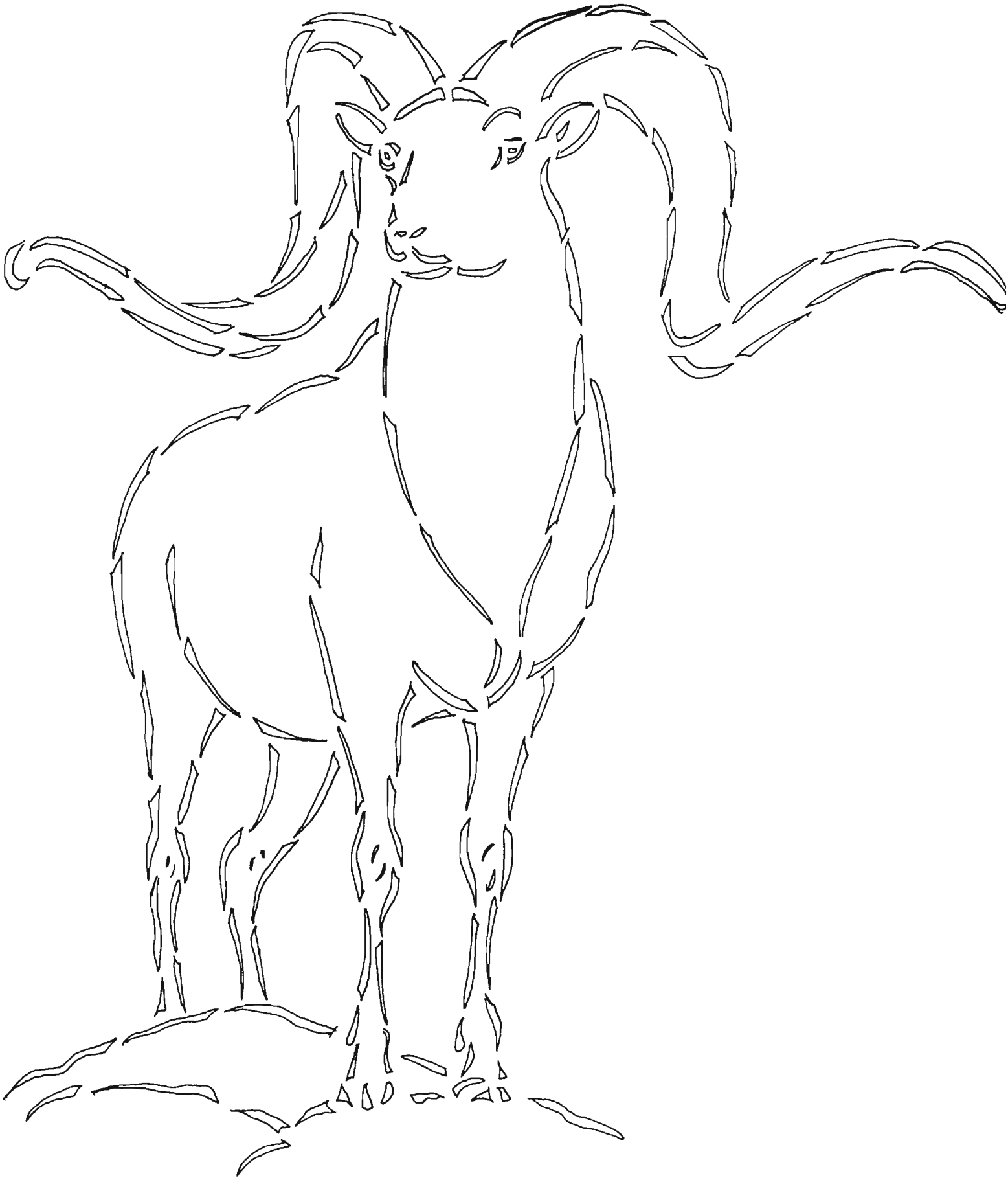
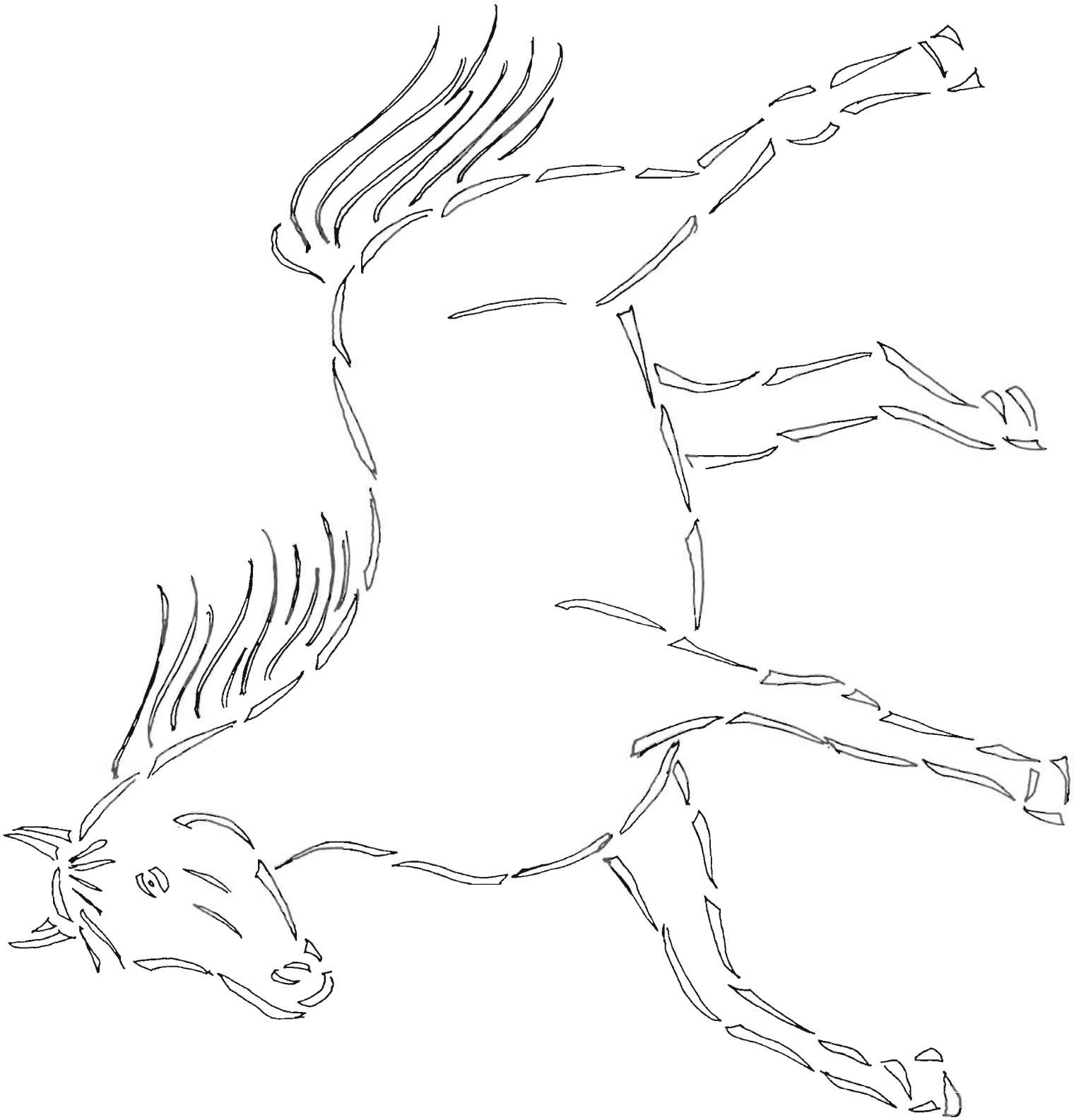
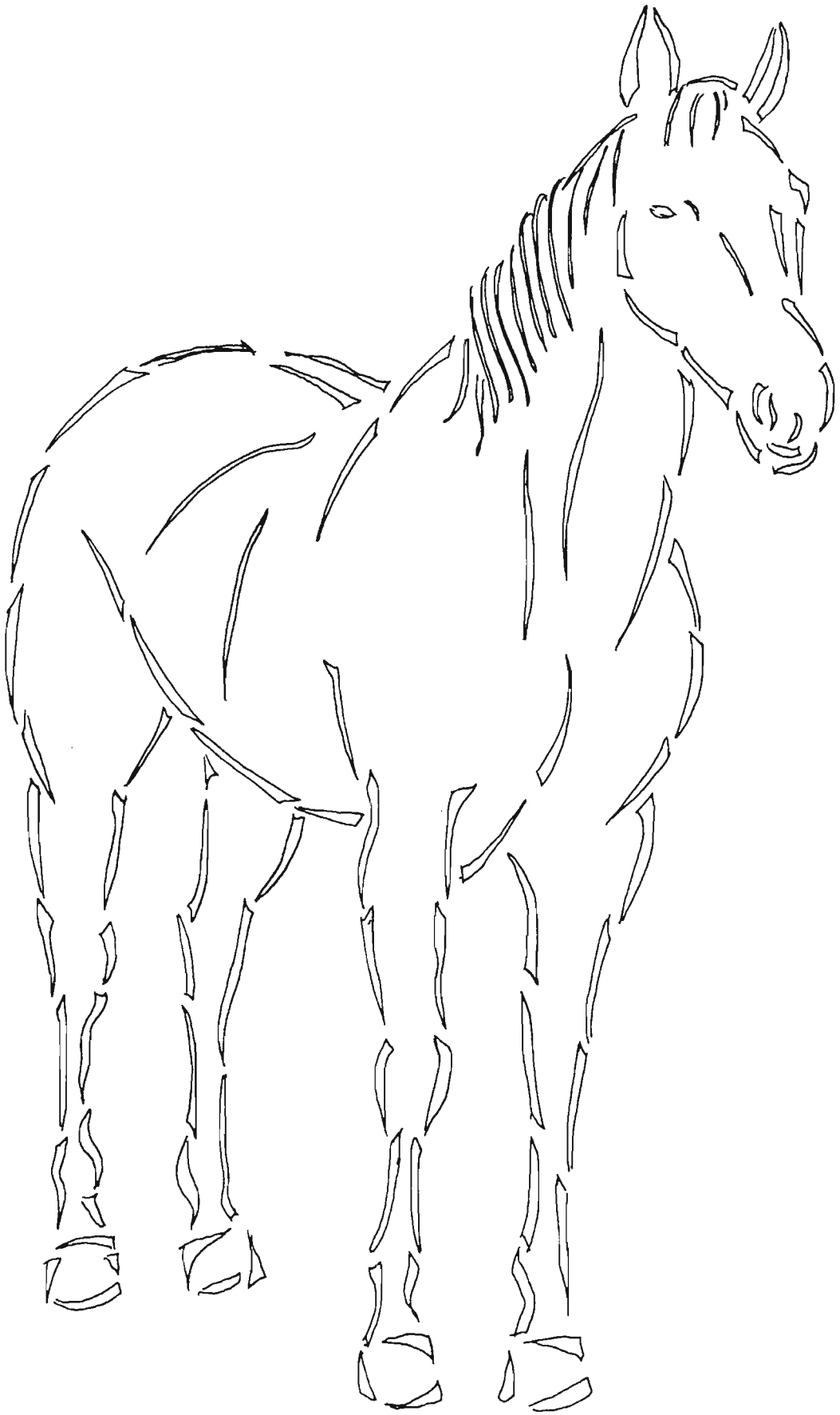
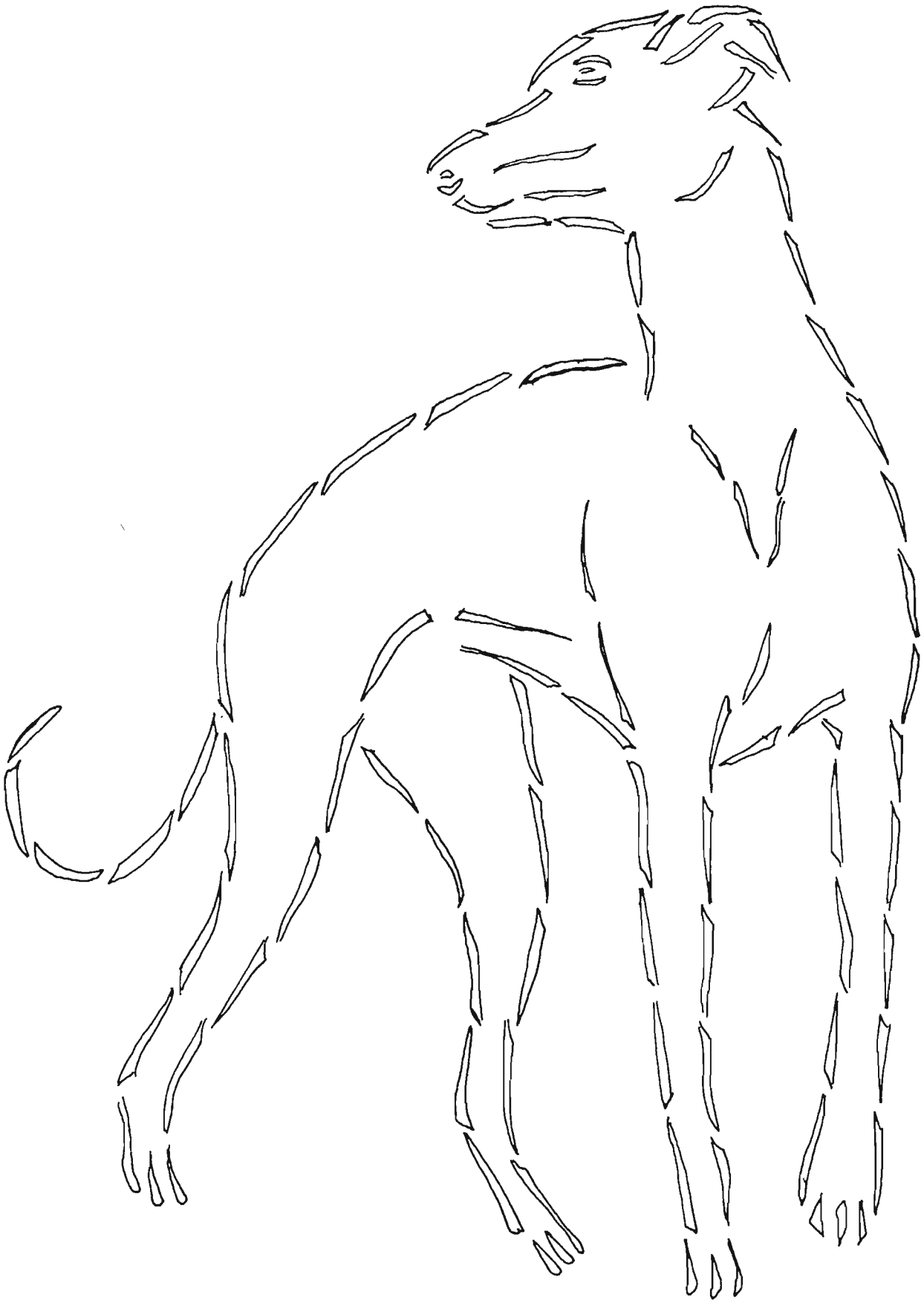
Starting at the point of the three lines, insert the point of the knife into the wood and draw the knife downward using more pressure as the space between the lines widens. Turn your work around 180 degrees and reverse depth cut along the opposite line.

After some practice, you can repeat the down stroke on several lines before turning the work around 180 degrees and then do the opposite side of the elongated triangle. After the two lines are cut, then cut the connecting line at the same angle as you cut the two longer lines. The chip should pop right out.

When starting a line, keep the knife moving constantly without lifting it out of the wood until you come to the end of the cut. If the knife is removed and positioned back into the cut, it is extremely difficult to have the knife land in the exact same place, therefore, two levels are made in the same cut.



Do not erase any carbon lines left on the work (if you didn't cut close enough to remove the line) as it will burnish the wood and it will not accept stain as well. Rather, use a fine grain sandpaper and lightly sand with the grain of the wood. Remove the grit from the cuts with a soft tooth brush.

Using a nut pick sharpened to a point, score the very bottom of the cut where the two walls meet, forming the bottom of the V. This is to burnish or close up the mark left by the knife. When the project is completed, I like to use a stain that already has a wax mix in it. Then I buff it with a bristle brush on a drill.

I like to apply the stain with a soft cloth that is dipped into the stain and then wrung out almost dry. Lightly lay the cloth onto a portion of the wood that has no cuts in it and quickly drag it across the piece going with the grain of the wood. Let the stain dry and apply it again 5 or 6 times. Some stain may get into the grooves, but it can be cut out with a fine slice from the knife. Then buff the piece with a soft bristle brush on a wheel.